

IPSWICH SPARROW (*Passerculus princeps*).—Two were observed back of the sand dunes near Lewes Dec. 29, 1907, and on the following day Dr. Spencer Trotter of Philadelphia, Penn., saw twelve or more in the same locality, four of which were shot.

## SUMMARY.

Previously recorded . . . . .	211 species
Now recorded . . . . .	16 "
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Total native species recorded . . . . .	227 "
Introduced species recorded . . . . .	4 "

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 THE CASE OF *STRIX* VS. *ALUCO*.

BY J. A. ALLEN.

THE proper type of the Linnaean genus *Strix* has repeatedly been under discussion, the last time, so far as I am aware, by the late Dr. Coues in 'The Auk' for January, 1900 (XVII, pp. 65, 66), where he says: "This is a case on which the last word does not appear to have been said. . . . It involves not only two generic, but also two family names."

It had previously been discussed in 'The Ibis' by Salvin,<sup>1</sup> Sharpe,<sup>2</sup> and Newton,<sup>3</sup> and also by Newton<sup>4</sup> in his edition of Yarrell, and in his 'Dictionary of Birds' (1894, p. 673), and by Coues in the fourth (1884) edition of his 'Key' (p. 500, 508). Newton and Coues reached the same conclusions, which were in opposition to the view almost universally accepted by other ornithologists.

The commonly recognized type of *Strix* is *Strix flammea* Linn. 1766. The genus *Strix*, however, was founded by Linnaeus in 1758, but at that date did not include *Strix flammea*, which was

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<sup>1</sup> Ibis, 1875, pp. 66, 67, footnote.

<sup>2</sup> Contributions to a History of the *Accipitres*. The Genus *Strix* of Linnaeus, and its Type. Ibis, 1875, pp. 324-328.

<sup>3</sup> Ibis, 1876, pp. 94-104.

<sup>4</sup> Yarrell's British Birds, ed. 4, I, 1872, pp. 146, 150, 194, 198.

not published till 1766 (10th ed. Syst. Nat., p. 133). Therefore *Strix flammea* cannot be the type of *Strix*, it being not one of the originally included species. For the few who still take 1766 as the date of the beginning of zoölogical nomenclature this is no objection; and it is probably due to the former wide acceptance of this date as the starting point that the recognition of *Strix flammea* as the type of *Strix* has become so ingrained in ornithological literature.

But there is another way in which *Strix flammea* has been construed as the type of *Strix*, namely, by taking *Strix aluco* Linn., 1758, as an earlier name for *Strix flammea* Linn., 1766, as has been done in the 'A. O. U. Check-List of North American Birds,' from the first edition in 1886 to date,<sup>1</sup> and which determination of *Strix aluco* I followed in my recent papers on the types of North American genera of birds, without looking up the matter for myself. Dr. Stejneger, however, having recently called my attention (in conversation) to this point, I have been led to go carefully into the matter, with the results here detailed. While they agree perfectly with the conclusions reached by Newton and Coues, they are based primarily on different grounds, as the foregoing statements show; at least as regards Dr. Coues, who assumed *Strix aluco* Linn., 1758, to be the same as *Strix flammea* Linn. 1766, and as a different species from *Strix aluco* Linn. 1766.

*Strix aluco* Linn., 1758, is a composite species, including both the Barn Owl and the Wood Owl or Tawny Owl of Europe. His first reference under *Strix aluco* is to Faun. Suec., 1746 ed., p. 17, No. 48, which is the Tawny Owl pure and simple, as shown by the quite full description there given, not one of the characters applying to the Barn Owl, but each unmistakably to the Tawny Owl, and where also all the citations of other authors there given relate to it. This is also the basis of *Strix aluco* Linn., 1766, which everybody admits is the Tawny Owl. At 1758, however, Linnæus gave references under *Strix aluco* to Willoughby's, Ray's, and Albin's unmistakable descriptions and figures of the Barn Owl. Those who have identified *Strix aluco* Linn., 1758 with the

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<sup>1</sup> This was also done by Coues in 1884 (Key, 4th ed.) and in 1900 (Auk, 1900, p. 66), at which later date he says: "*S. aluco* Linn. [S. N., I, 10th ed., 1758], p. 93, sp. No. 6, is the Barn Owl, as shown by the references."

<sup>2</sup> Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXIII, 1907, p. 333; *ibid.*, XXIV, 1908, p. 39.

later *Strix flammea* have done so by making these references the basis of their determination instead of the first reference, to the Faun. Succ., where Linnæus himself shows unmistakably the species he intended to indicate by the name *Strix aluco*; and also later (12th ed. Syst. Nat., 1766) by making these same references to Willoughby, Ray, and Albin the principal basis of his *S. flammea*, and restricting *Strix aluco* to No. 48 of the Fauna Suecica.

As *Strix flammea* proves untenable as the type of *Strix*, and as *Strix aluco*, 1758, is not an earlier name, in any proper sense, for *S. flammea*, what then is the type of *Strix*? As *Strix* was not monotypic, and the type was not indicated by the author, the determination of the type necessarily depends upon the action of some subsequent author, or comes into the category of "Cases in which the generic type is not accepted *solely* upon the basis of the original publication."<sup>1</sup>

The first author to divide the Linnæan genus *Strix* was Brisson, who in 1760,<sup>2</sup> separated it into two genera, *Asio* and *Strix*. The type of *Asio* is *Asio asio* Brisson (= *Strix otus* Linn.), and the type of *Strix* is *Strix strix* Brisson (= *Strix aluco et stridula* Linn.), on the principle of tautonomy. The type of *Strix*, on the basis of further 'subsequent designation,' is also "*Strix aluco* Linn. ed. 10," on the basis of the A. O. U. Check-List (1886), although the species was there evidently misidentified. Thus *Strix* will replace *Syrnium* Savigny, 1809 (type, *Syrnium ululans* Savigny = *Strix aluco* Linn.).

A substitute for *Strix*, in its currently accepted sense, is found in *Aluco* Fleming, 1822, with *Strix flammeus* Fleming<sup>3</sup> (= *Strix aluco* Linn.) as type by original designation, as long ago maintained by Newton (1874-1894) and Coues (1884-1900).

It hence follows that the family name Strigidæ must be transferred to replace Bubonidæ, as was done by Coues in 1884; while the current family name Strigidæ must be replaced by Aluconidæ Coues, 1884 (= subfamily Alucinæ Newton, 1894).

Since the name *flammea* Linn., 1766, is preoccupied by *Strix flammea* Pontoppidan, 1764, for the Short-eared Owl (*Strix accip-*

<sup>1</sup> International Code of Zoölogical Nomenclature, Art. 30, adopted August, 1907.

<sup>2</sup> Orn., I, 1760, pp. 28, 477, 492.

<sup>3</sup> Fleming, Philos. Zoöl., II, 1822, p. 236.

